



SB81 – Charter Counties - Enforcement of Local Building Performance Laws (Building Energy Performance Standards Act of 2022)

Testimony before

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 2, 2022

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of HB61, to strengthen enforcement of building energy performance codes across the state.

It is imperative that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible. Building emissions reduction is an important and expedient component to meeting Maryland's goals. Maryland counties and Howard County are taking significant action such as Building Energy Performance Standards.

This bill gives power to counties to enforce Building Energy Performance Standards by imposing a fine of not more than \$10 per square foot of gross floor area of a building - an essential factor in regulation and incentivizing efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Barbara Matheson
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